



PHOTO BY SOUSA

PROTESTER ATTACKED BY POLICE AT CONCORDIA LAST THURSDAY

Protest Ended By Force And Pepper-Spray

THREE ARRESTED AMID ACCUSATIONS OF EXCESSIVE FORCE

BY JASON CHOW

Protesters at Concordia University were subjected to excessive brutality by the university's angry security guards and from MUC police.

Thursday afternoon a peaceful demonstration of around 15 people gathered at Concordia's downtown campus. They assembled to raise awareness about the federal government's order to deport Chilean political refugees currently sheltered in a Montréal church.

Three activists were arrested after the police arrived.

The demonstrators entered the Hall building and were immediately met by angry security guards. According to witnesses, the guards used "excessive force" in escorting the demonstrators out of the building.

"Once we came into the building, we were rushed by security. They started tackling people without asking questions," said protester Chris Scott. Witnesses saw guards grab Scott, who was

speaking through a megaphone, and wrestle him to the ground.

A window was broken by security as they moved the demonstrators out onto the sidewalk. Shortly after, police came and quickly began breaking up the crowd. Scott attempted to stop the first arrest, standing on a police car, shouting for the support of protesters. He said officers headlocked him, pepper-sprayed his eyes, and arrested him for obstruction of justice.

David Lessard, also an activist, attempted to stop the police from spraying Scott by grabbing the officer's arm. Lessard received shots of spray to his eyes.

Witnesses estimated around eight protesters in all were pepper-sprayed, including many who were curious bystanders and not participants.

Speaking through tears, Lessard pointed at bruises and raw skin and accused the authorities of excessive force. "They went too far. It was an abuse of power."

Concordia Student Union

President David Smaller echoed similar sentiments and accused campus security of brutality. "We should ask the university to ease up on tactics and stop being a paramilitary organization." He added, "I think the university should decriminalize democracy."

Phil Ilijevski, a Student Union representative, denounced Concordia's security, calling them "the worst in the city." He commented later that, "This couldn't have happened in any other school."

According to Smaller, students have suggested pressing charges against security. Acting on these concerns, he has already spoken to the vice-rector services about a possible inquiry into the incident.

He further lamented the university's response to the entire ordeal. "They've been saying 'vile protesters' and placing the blame on them. This is a real unfortunate response. Not only are they being dishonest, but there has been no moment for self-reflection."

Fire In the Hole

EXPLOSION AT CURRIE GYM GIVES
HUNDREDS A REASON TO SWEAT

BY HUGH
ODLING-SMEE

Hundreds of McGill students and staff were forced to flee the Arthur Currie Memorial gym on Wednesday night, after the building was shaken by an explosion caused by a fire. Both students and staff were unharmed by the blast, which originated from three tanks on the roof. The tanks, containing asphalt, tar and propane, were to be used for renovations which the Currie building is currently undergoing.

The explosion took place at around 9:15 PM, and police and firefighters arrived within 10 minutes of the alarm. All those in the

building were evacuated and the 75 firefighters were able to prevent the blaze from spreading to the roof. The fire was brought under control within an hour.

Emergency services cordoned off Avenue Des Pins, from top of Rue Université to Avenue du Parc. A large crowd gathered at the scene, consisting of those evacuated from the building and people passing by. One such onlooker, an undergraduate student, described the scene, as "a bit confusing. There were so many fire-engines and fire fighters, but nobody could see much evidence of a fire. One guy I spoke to was obviously concerned because he still had equipment in the building."

As Thursday morning dawned, more information was forthcoming. Eyal Baruch, assistant facilities manager, spoke to the Daily, and insisted that there was no reason for alarm, "Everything is running as normal, and that includes all classes." Baruch claimed that there had been no extensive structural damage and that a rough estimate of the cost of the fire was \$2000. This was caused mainly by water and smoke damage to the top floor of the building. There was no damage to the neighboring Molson stadium.

A police investigation has been launched into the causes of the fire.



PHOTO BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER

ROOF OF CURRIE GYM, THE MORNING AFTER

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Against the Grain APEC in the Big Picture

Hugs for foreign dictators and pepper-spray for our student activists. Red carpets awaited Suharto and Jiang as they arrived in Vancouver for the infamous Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit on November 25, 1997.

Issues such as Tiananmen Square and East Timor are surely important, but to be 'relevant' in an increasingly 'global' economy we must 'liberalize' trade and 'deregulate' all forms of state intervention so as to make our partners in crime - i.e. Suharto of Indonesia and Jiang of China - swoon in our presence.

The mainstream media, economists, financial market representatives, and our very own politicians were shoving this bullshit down our throats at an unfathomable rate.

What the APEC summit last November should have done, and to a certain extent now has, is of-

fer us the basis to raise profound questions on Canadian foreign and domestic policy.

Two key questions, the first of immediate saliency and the second of broader consequence, must be brought into play. To begin with the immediate, it seems the cumulative evidence to date has

BY
JEFF
WEBBER

illustrated that the RCMP took the liberty - possibly under the command of Chrétien himself - to encroach upon our fundamental right as Canadian citizens to non-violently protest against injustice. When the RCMP pepper-sprayed the students in Vancouver, they were setting a dangerous precedent for future student protests. Posters and loud voices do not warrant pepper-spray and arrests.

But beyond the already deplorable actions revealed thus far, regarding pepper-spraying and removing of posters, are even more disturbing revelations suggesting that the RCMP kept detailed records of known organizers of the protesters right down to questions of their sexuality, and HIV status.

Besides the irrelevance of these factors in the potential 'danger factor' of a demonstrator, under no circumstances is this pseudo-McCarthyism permissible in a supposedly advanced democracy such as ours.

There is absolutely no ground upon which the RCMP can keep detailed records of people who have committed no illegal acts in the past. Furthermore, the records were kept of people promoting a completely legitimate, non-violent protest against what we should all see as a disgrace to Canada's record on human rights.

This leads to the second set of broader questions. What exactly is the federal government's motivation in having these dictators as partners in the liberalization of trade throughout the world? And how do they excuse these leaders' crimes against humanity?

After perusing the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade web site, <http://www.dfaic.gc.ca>, last November I uncovered, without too much difficulty, at least part of the answer.

In the country profile of Indonesia, what was, at the time, the despotic playground of Suharto

was portrayed as a country enjoying pleasant stability.

No mention of the horrific past under Suharto - the slaughter of over 200,000 people in East Timor, the death of 500,000 suspected communists (virtually any random citizen) in 1965 during Suharto's initial CIA-backed military coup, and the gross inequities in the country that have persisted to this day - are to be found on the federal government's web site.

What is clear is that there are over 200 million people in Indonesia, and they offer a potentially lucrative market for Canadian exports in the long term. That is the only thing that is clear in the federal government's actions regarding trade with Indonesia.

The same motivation explains the warm welcome Jiang Zemin received at the APEC summit. The Canadian government overlooked the fact that Jiang has called the massacre in Tiananmen Square a "political disturbance," defending the Chinese government's crack-down as necessary to "political and social stability". They've overlooked the fact that last year under Jiang, China officially executed more than 4,000 people, which is more than the total of all executions that took place in the rest of the world during the same time period. And the Canadian government has overlooked the fact that political dissidents are routinely imprisoned and/or executed in China.

The Liberals have excused these actions under the guise of trade liberalization, and under the label of APEC.

At no time have APEC summits addressed social or political factors, save limited discussion on the environment (largely because environmental technology is a Canadian export).

Meanwhile, the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) has provided a forum for the Chief Executive Officers of numerous multinational corporations to sit and discuss APEC's agenda.

The priorities being addressed at APEC are wrong. Let's use the present coverage on the student protesters to illustrate the wrong done to them as well as the wrongs committed against the people of participating APEC countries like China and Indonesia.

The complicity of our own government in the perpetuation of these atrocities is clear.

A Rare Sense of Safety



PHOTO BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER

GODDESS OF THE NIGHT AT RODDICK GATES

BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER

Over two hundred women gathered at the Roddick Gates last Thursday evening to "take back the night." Spirits were high as the exclusively female group prepared for the walk to Isart by painting their faces, donning elaborate homemade masks of Goddess creatures and pinning small golden wings to their shoulders "to feel uplifted," as one participant explained. The atmosphere was indeed empowering as photographers' flash bulbs illuminated smiling faces eager to

express solidarity in the protest of violence against women.

A police car began leading the marchers down McGill College at about 7:30 as cries of "La rue! La nuit! Les femmes sans peur!" filled the air. The Goddess, an immense puppet towering over the crowd, danced amid placards demanding pay equity, denouncing incest and celebrating female strength, as onlookers, including two female police officers blocking off intersections, cheered the marching women on.

(A note from Jeff Webber): A brief introduction to *Against the Grain* seems appropriate at this time. Basically, the column is a platform for me to express a basic belief that the dominant political trends of the contemporary world limit debate, and consequently some important ideas simply aren't heard. I present my personal perspective, out of the plethora of excluded ideas, fighting against the general thrust of dominant political belief. The objective is to provide an opinion as to what the dominant dictums actually mean when they are translated into the real lives of people. This is something that I don't think is being addressed, and thus my article runs *Against the Grain*.

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The Last Crusader for Canadian Nationalism?

TORY LEADERSHIP HOPEFUL DAVID ORCHARD TALKS TO THE DAILY

BY MIKE JANCIK

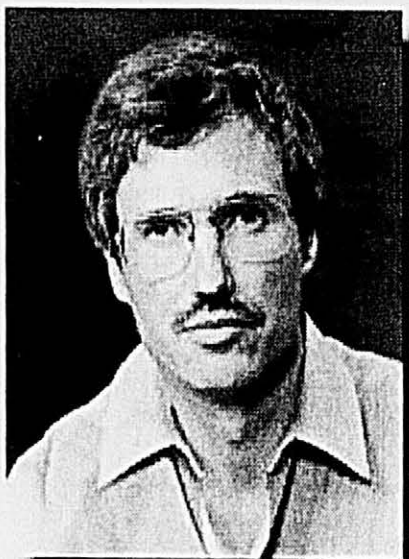
David Orchard is something of an anomaly—especially among potential Tory leaders. Unlike his opponents, he is neither a veteran politician, nor a party hack. Rather, Orchard is an organic farmer who has campaigned against free trade since 1985 through his organization Citizens Concerned About Free Trade.

In this era of NAFTA and the MAI, his campaign is anchored on an opposition to free trade. In an interview with the Daily, he said, "Mulroney was an aberration," in the sense that the Conservatives have usually opposed closer ties the US.

In stark contrast to his opponents, Orchard seeks to reclaim the isolationist tradition. Claiming the legacy of Sir John A. MacDonald, Georges Etienne Cartier, and John Diefenbaker, he argues that the greatest threat to Canada is economic and political annexation by the US. To deal with this threat, the Tory hopeful would, "take Canada out of the FTA and NAFTA," and, "abandon the MAI."

Orchard's willingness to buck trends does not stop there. On Canada's constitutional conundrum, Orchard says that, "excessive devolution [of powers] will not solve the problem." Asked about distinct society, Orchard opposes, "attaching certain designations to Quebec." Further, he would not initiate a, "new process of Constitutional reform." Rather, he believes that national unity will be improved by, "strengthening

east-west links." In particular he would, "build national industries." Once again, the question comes back to an opposition to the US. Orchard thinks



DAVID ORCHARD

that more Canadians will identify with a nation that is, "not a satellite of the US." He is convinced that if we reclaim, "the

role in funding universities, Orchard advocates federal involvement in education funding policy.

Continuing with student issues, Orchard said that he is, "completely opposed to this cutting of the deficit on the backs of the students." He called himself opposed both to the existence of block transfers and to the reductions in spending that came with them. On the other hand, when asked if he would have been willing to raise taxes to protect government revenues, Orchard was non-committal.

Posters advertising a recent address at Concordia invite his audience to come and, "change the course of history." He seeks to reverse almost every trend in Canadian federal politics. He would abandon free trade, refuse to acknowledge Quebec as a distinct society, and reverse the direction on spending.

Orchard sees himself as bringing important ideas to contemporary Canadian politics. In his view, they are "old but good." The appropriate question may be good for when? Good for the 50's, the 70's or the late 90's? Does David Orchard really hold the truth that every other Canadian politician, and almost every world politician has missed? Or, is it more likely that it is Orchard who misunderstands the present context?



tools to our own destiny ... there is no excuse for unemployment in a country as rich in resources as Canada."

Asked about differential tuition fees here in Quebec, Orchard said he, "sees a role," for the federal government in the issue. He suggested that a "coordinating role... like [the one with] medicare," could be played. In other words, since the federal government plays a

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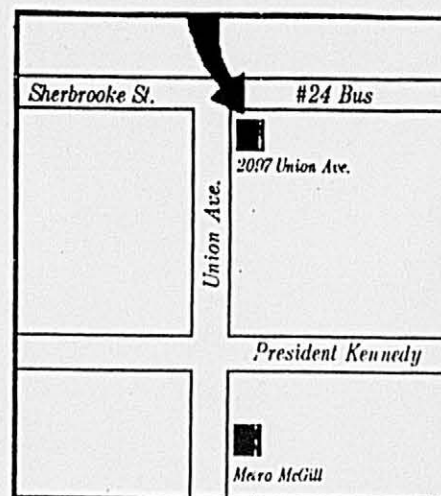
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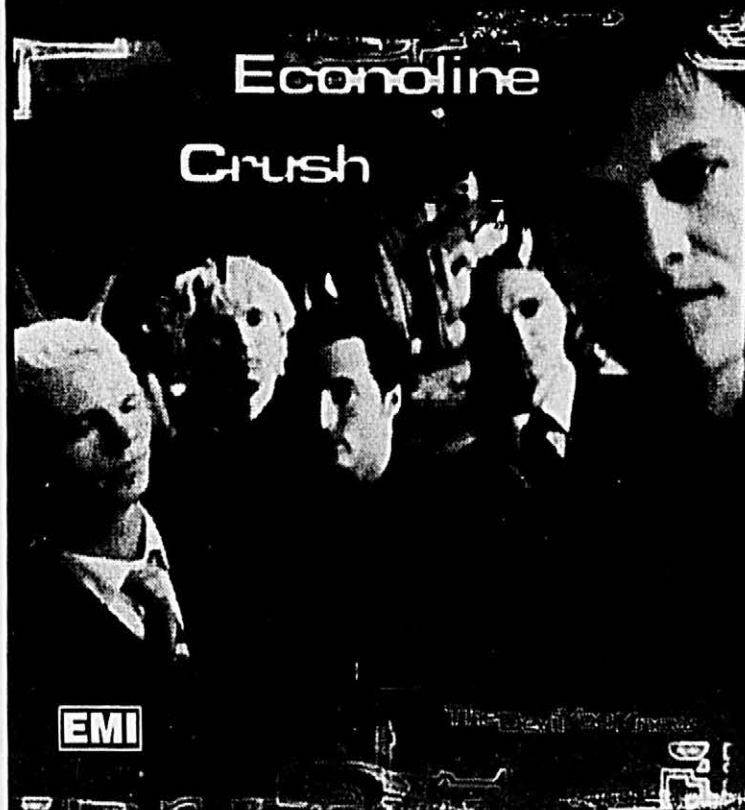
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Angry Students

FINANCE MINISTER PAUL

BY JEFF WEBBER

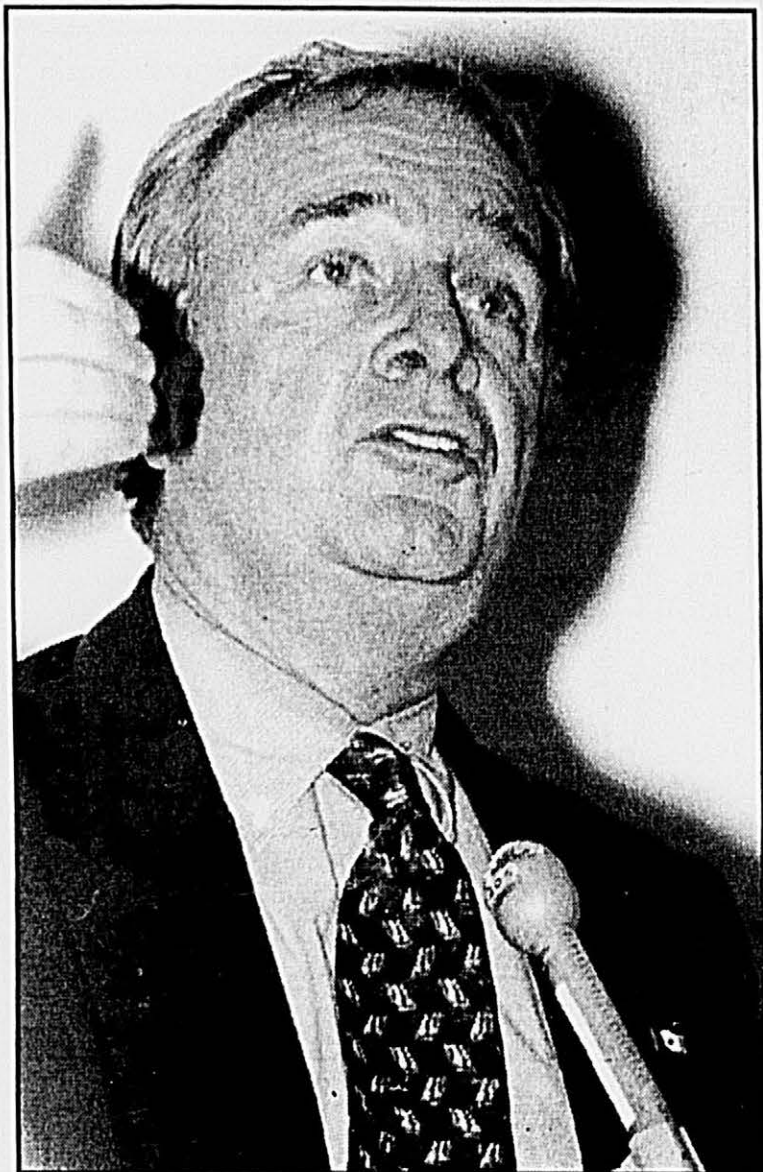


PHOTO BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER

“Why isn't the Liberal government doing anything to help alleviate student debt? Why is the welfare state in Canada eroding and what are you going to do about it?” are the sort of questions posed to Minister of Finance Paul Martin during his talk at McGill.

Last Friday's debate between the audience and Martin veered back and forth in a hot room of the Leacock building, full of Liberal supporters and anti-Liberal activists side by side.

Martin began his talk with issues such as the inequality inherent in globalization, and the problems of debt and deficit, correctly anticipating the barrage of student questions to follow.

“Globalization creates a world where winners do very well and second best fall far behind. We are in the process of creating a rigid caste system of rich and poor,” Martin said. “One of the major tasks of government is to offer a level playing field. Not equality of outcome, I can't guarantee that, but equality of opportunity.”

But the students coming to the mic repeatedly challenged the authenticity of Martin's commitment to equality of opportunity.

New federal budget

“When the deficit was very

high you were saying how to abolish deficit to save social programs. Now that the deficit is gone, you're giving tax breaks to wealthy individuals,” a student asked.

The question refers to an economic speech given by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien two weeks ago outlining what was to be done with the budget surplus. In the speech Chrétien announced what amounts to \$5-billion in tax and debt relief versus around \$1-billion new spending next year. This contradicts a promise made by the Liberals in 1997 to spend 50% on new spending and 50% on debt reduction from the predicted surplus.

Martin responded, “In the 1995 budget we did make the cuts. We found ourselves against a wall. But the last budget we increased transfer payments by \$1.5-billion.” Frustrated that Martin was not answering his question, the student interrupted the Finance Minister and they debated intensely but without resolving the issue in any coherent manner.

Related to the upcoming budget, another student asked Martin how the Liberals were going to respond to the erosion of our welfare state, or if they were planning to respond at all.

Martin employed the now commonplace argument: the need

to be realistic, and to create a new vision of dealing with questions such as the welfare state in an increasingly global economy.

“My father's generation laid down the foundation [for the welfare state] as we know it now, following the Second World War...The welfare state has become underfunded because governments have allowed themselves to be burdened by debts,” Martin said. “We can't just repair the fabric of the past, we have to look to the future.”

A significant proportion of the audience resented Martin's statements. Many of the questions overlapped each other, saying essentially that it was not the governments of the past that eroded the welfare state, but the present Liberal government and the diminishing of transfer payments that have taken place under its power.

Martin suggested that the old way of governing, meaning running a deficit in times of need, is no longer a practical way of proceeding. “We need to take a new look at how to sustain our welfare state,” he said.

“My visions of what we have to do is...is that the economy has outstripped the capacity of governments to deal with it in the old way,” Martin said.

Student Issues

Student Society of McGill University (SSMU) President Duncan Reid also questioned the legitimacy of some of Martin's comments on student issues.

“There have been tuition fee freezes in Québec, but because of draconian cuts to transfer payments, Québec has had to cut financing to McGill...How do you expect McGill to provide quality services under these conditions?” Reid asked.

Martin placed most of the blame on Québec, restating that education falls under the jurisdiction of provinces. He did suggest to Reid, “What you have to do is pressure the provincial government...and the federal government too...Most of these cuts [federal cuts to transfer payments in 1995] in Québec have been made up by other transfers, for example the Child Benefit Tax.”

Two other student issues

raised were differential tuition fees and the Millennium Scholarship Fund.

One student asked Martin, “If the federal government is so concerned with decreasing barriers to education and creating equality of opportunity why are you and your fellow cabinet ministers remaining mute on the subject of differential tuition fees?”

Martin's response to her question was concise: “We haven't remained mute on the subject. I don't think it [differential tuition fees] makes sense, but education is the matter of provincial jurisdiction.” Martin added, however, that he had talked to the provincial governments about the issue and had presented his view to them.

Further, the Millennium Scholarship Fund was ad-

ressed by a member of the Concordia Action Committee. “I think the Millennium Scholarship Fund is a millennium fraud. The average student debt is \$25,000 and I know students with \$40,000 debts. The Millennium Fund doesn't address this,” she said.

In a quick review of last year's budget Martin defended the Liberals' position: “I think you have to look closely at...in fact, what we did in the [1997] budget....The main criteria for the Millennium Fund is need. There are going to be 100,000 students who receive \$4,000 to \$5,000 year.”

Globalization

The nebulous concept of globalization was also at the forefront

Chilean Ref

CANADA DEP

BY CHRIS SCOTT

About sixty-five Chilean refugees have entered the second week of a church occupation in what they view as an emergency bid to avoid deportation.

The group, which includes workers, young children and community activists, are only a portion of the two hundred Chileans living in Montréal who have been denied refugee status by the federal government and fear jail, torture, or persecution if returned to their homeland. After several members of the refugee community were in fact arrested and deported two weeks ago, remaining members either went into hiding or flocked for sanctuary to St. Jean de la Croix church on Blvd. St. Laurent and St. Zotique. They are vowing to remain until the Québec government reverses its current position and accords them refugee status.

Inside the church there is an attitude of grim solidarity as organizers field phone calls, move among Red Cross-donated beds and talk to media. The steps to the street are dotted with protest ban-

ners and Québec and Chilean flags. In the nave, a cluster of Spanish-speaking youngsters, denied entrance by law to provincial schools, are noisily learning the French alphabet from a volunteer teacher.

Group spokespeople are still concerned that immigration authorities may storm the church. Emphasizing the danger they face if deported, they cite the case of one occupant who is subject of a Chilean arrest warrant for having witnessed an instance of police torture in 1994. Others are wanted for their role as organizers in student or union movements.

In short, Chile is still a country where torture, censorship, and political imprisonment are the norm, and where activists are framed on artificial charges such as “terrorism” or “defaming the state,” according to Eric Maya, a 34 year-old physiotherapist, three-year Canadian resident, and one of the refugees facing deportation.

Chilean exiles first began to arrive in Montréal in 1973, after a popularly elected socialist gov-

Demand Answers

MARTIN SPEAKS AT MCGILL

throughout the discussion. Martin condemned the way globalization is presently setting in.

There is a "direct correlation between problems that countries are experiencing internally and globalization," he said, adding that something must be done about the increasing disparity of wealth world wide. "The whole world has spent its time making globalization happen rather than making it work...In trying to take all the benefits of globalization, we've left the poor people out."

But some people were more cynical about what the Liberal government's actual policies say about the concern for the poor beyond Martin's rhetoric. The Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) in particular, was raised at numerous points

in the discussion. Critics of the proposed agreement voiced concerns on the lack of public consultation, and the fact that the MAI in its present form could allow multinational corporations to sue governments over environmental and labour legislation.

In defense of the MAI and its proceedings, Martin claimed that the federal government was the first government to demand public consultation.

"The essence of the MAI is not just if we want the MAI or not, it's if there are some things we want for Canadians and some things we don't want," he said. "There is public consultation going on right now."

However, one critic from the audience yelled out that it was not

until significant, international grassroots opposition to the MAI was aired, that the federal government partially opened up what had until then been a secret MAI agenda.

But not all students were opposed to Martin and the Liberals. Several members of Liberal McGill cheered and clapped in response to Martin's comments throughout. Further, while exiting the room two students were heard commenting on some activists who had been chanting slogans such as "shame" and "tax the banks".

"He [Martin] must get so much of this whining at universities" said one of the students. "They [the activists] just make themselves look stupid" the other agreed.



PHOTO BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER

Refugees Seek Asylum In Church

PORTS ACTIVISTS AS FREE TRADE OUTWEIGHS HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS

ernment was toppled in a U.S.-financed military coup. President Salvador Allende, known for his nationalization of foreign-owned mines, expansion of the health care system, and programme of subsidized milk for Chilean school children, was killed and replaced by IMF-backed general Augusto Pinochet

In the course of a 17-year dictatorship, Pinochet implemented the aggressively corporate, free-trade policies which pre-dominate in Chile to this day. Pinochet's goal was "to completely eliminate the social movement, through exile, death, and terrorization [of the population]," Maya explains. It was in this period that social disparity was radically accentuated, to the point where, out of today's population of 14 million, 5 million Chileans live in poverty, and 2 million are completely homeless or live in shantytowns, Maya adds.

The Chileans charge that their country's 1990 transition to civilian rule provided more show than substance of democracy, and that the relentless persecution of com-

munity organizers and dissenters continues to date. Maya notes such incidents as the recent arrest of a journalist from the Santiago newspaper *La Tercera*, who had published a statement against press censorship, and the police killings of 3 activists this September 11th (also in Santiago) at a demonstration marking the 25th anniversary of the coup.

While the Chilean consul could not be reached for comment, Anne Ste. Marie of Amnesty International (Montréal) confirms some of the occupants' statements in acknowledging "torture by security forces" is still common in Chile. "Several protectors of human rights have received death threats," Ste. Marie notes.

Ste. Marie believes that the country's human rights record has "majorly improved" since the Pinochet years, but adds that the fact that "Pinochet himself has never been judged [in court] for his acts", and that most of his co-generals are still at large creates an enduring "climate of terror" for many Chileans.

For Maya, Canada's blanket refusal to accept Chilean refugees reflects a market criterion and not a human rights one. In light of the upcoming inclusion of Chile into NAFTA, Canada is eager to protect the reputation of its investors by denying human rights abuse exists. Already, reports Maya, Canadian corporate investment in Chile totals \$8 billion.

Ultimately, suggests Maya, much of the Chileans' fate may depend on the openness and the solidarity of the Montréal community. Montréal activists have in fact launched several support demos already, including a witnessing at the airport (where the deportations have been taking place), and a September 24th speak-in at Concordia University, where three people (including two McGill students) were arrested.

Maya is appealing for help, first in the form of moral support, and then for materials, including blankets, and food; which will help to sustain the refugees through a traumatic situation, and ultimately, if necessary, prolong the occupation for several weeks.

MCGILL DAILY REPORTER ARRESTED BY POLICE

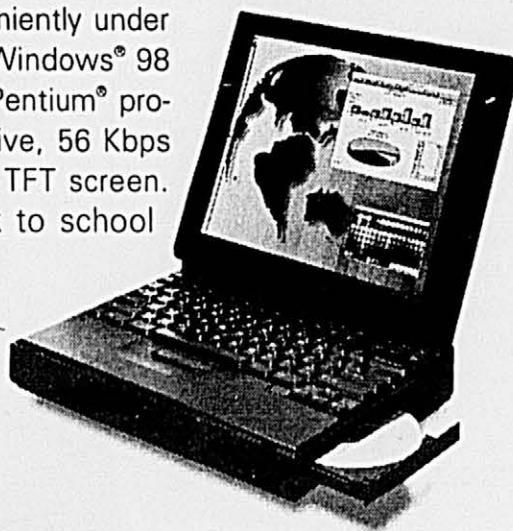


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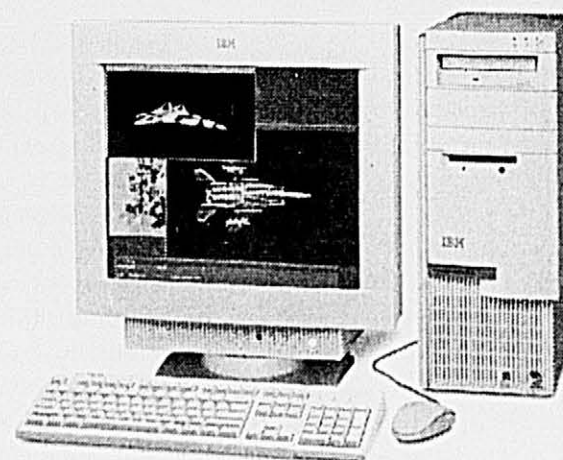


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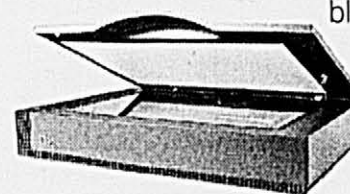


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White, Grade A Eggs for Sale

ATTRACTIVE, CAUCASIAN WOMEN SOUGHT AS OVA DONORS

By KRISHNA LALBIHARIE

WINNIPEG (CUP) An increasing number of reproductive clinics and infertile couples have been soliciting young Caucasian women in elite universities for the sale of human ova, prompting concerns about selective breeding and medical risks.

Some critics — including students, health professionals, biotechnologists and ethicists — are alarmed by the commercialization of gamete donation among young women and the preference for Caucasian donors. Many also worry about the invasiveness of egg retrieval procedures. "They have turned (universities) into...meat market(s)," said Patricia Baird, a medical geneticist at the University of British Columbia.

Baird, who in 1993 chaired the Canadian Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies, says couples and fertility clinics are focusing advertisement efforts on universities because they exhibit a higher percentage of young, intelligent women than other sectors within society.

That's worrisome because procedures for the harvesting of eggs incur potential medical risks. Donors must undergo a series of hormonal injections and retrieval of ova from ovaries is often painful and extremely intrusive, she says.

"There's a real difference between sperm and egg collection — young guys are ejaculating all the time anyway," Baird recently told *the Globe and Mail*. "Handing over your eggs is not a trivial procedure. It's one thing to take these risks because you want a child. It's quite another thing to do it for money."

The sale of ova is prohibited in most countries. In response to the Royal Commission, the Canadian government developed legislation in 1996 to ban the sale, purchase or exchange of ova, sperm and gametes. But the legislation remains tabled in the House of Commons.

Fertility-related organizations admit many egg donors are young, white university-age women. The Infertility Awareness Association of Canada and the American Center for Surrogate Parenting and Egg Donation admit the majority of their candidates for egg donation are Caucasian women between the ages of 21 and 35 with a minimum of 13 years of formal education.

The fact most candidates are white, industry insiders say, doesn't mean fertility clinics don't want donors who aren't Caucasian. Commercial operators of egg donation are "simply responding to market demands," said a representative of the Infertility Awareness Association of Canada.

Often, that market demand is communicated through ads in university newspapers. Student newspapers at the University of Toronto and York University in Canada, and Princeton and Harvard University in the U.S., are some of the ones that have run ads petitioning egg donors.

"You're going to get a better grade of person [at a university]," said one Toronto woman who advertised in the York University student newspaper, *the Excalibur*. "I didn't want to get some addict off the street," she told *the Globe and Mail*.

The editor of the paper that ran her ad says the ad was allowed because it didn't contravene the paper's guidelines prohibiting content that is racist,

sexist, homophobic or genocidal in nature.

"We consider the student newspaper a vehicle for public debate," said Derek Chezzi, editor-in-chief of *the Excalibur*. "This is an institution for higher learning, after all."

But while there may not be specific policies prohibiting non-Caucasian women from donating their ova, advertisements seem to want "upper-class, rich, white couples that are looking to have the perfect child," says Ruth Williams, co-ordinator of the University of Manitoba's women's centre.

Some ads for egg donors read like personal ads.

"My sister has completed her Ph.D. in pharmacology . . . my brother holds a Ph.D. in Genetics . . . I have a B.A. in Music Engineering and

Communications with a GPA of 3.25 . . . couples please e-mail me," reads the Web site of one woman, a student at the University of Colorado. The woman uses her Web site to advertise to prospective couples and fertility

companies.

"(My education) has cost me a great deal of money and it isn't done yet. Egg donation would help me with my school expenses," she adds.

But having to harvest one's eggs as a means of financing higher education is unacceptable, says Kelly Friesen, director of public relations with the University of Manitoba student union.

"As a representative of student interest, I'm horrified to think that some students would be put into such dire straits that a reasonable option to them is the selling of their ova," said Friesen.

"If that's the kind of move that women are willing to make in order to finance [their education], I think both levels of government need to seriously re-evaluate the commitment they've made to post-secondary education and enhance it," she said. "Because it's absolutely vile that women have to take these drastic measures in order to educate themselves."

NEWS ALERTS

CURRENT WRITERS AND NEW RECRUITS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, AT 4:00 PM

Global Day for Freedom from Debt



STREET THEATRE AS SOCIAL PROTEST

PHOTO BY LAURIE BRAUN

On September 24, 1998 the Social Justice Committee of Montréal organized a popular street theatre demonstration, protesting the tremendous debt burden on over a billion people in the world today.

The "Day of International Action" was initially organized by British and other NGOs around the world in an effort to put pressure on the German government which is staunchly opposed to debt relief. The demonstration was scheduled 3 days before the German elections and the public was asked to vote on a question asking if the incoming German government should support debt relief for the world's poorest nations. Germany itself had two-thirds of its foreign debt written off by 24 creditor countries in 1953. The ballots will be in the form of postcards which can be mailed to the consulate or given to the theatre organizers.

Although the strategic focus centres around the German elections, the broader spectrum of the theatre protest is Jubilee 2000. The latter is a global initiative to celebrate the new millennium by canceling unjust debt to a billion people by the year 2000.

News Briefs

SACOMSS REFERENDUM

BY JASON CHOW

SSMU council approved a motion in last Thursday's meeting to hold a referendum asking students whether or not they are willing to increase funding to the Sexual Assault Centre of McGill Student's Society (SACOMSS).

The referendum will be held later this semester.

Currently, SACOMSS receives \$0.50 from every student to fund its operations. However, due to the expansion of programs such as added outreach, support groups, and the regular publication of "Fire With Water," present levels of funding are not suffi-

cient.

The referendum will ask students to up their contributions to \$0.75.

Support for the motion was unanimous. SSMU Services Representative Chris Muldoon praised the centre for being "seen [across Canada] of how a sexual assault centre should be run."

NEW DATE RAPE DRUG

BY AMANDA LABONTE

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) -A drug known as Liquid G, which has a similar effect as Rohypnol when mixed with alcohol, is being dubbed the new "date-rape drug" by some observers.

Like Rohypnol, effects of the cocktail include extreme intoxication and temporary amnesia.

But, Gamma Hydroxybutyrate, or Liquid G, can have more severe side effects than Rohypnol, especially when used with other drugs. Comas, heart failure and even death have resulted from abusing the drug.

Published reports about the drug's abuse was recently circulated by the Canadian Federation of Students, says Leigh Borden, a member of the student union at Memorial University. The reports prompted her to look for more information on Liquid G.

"I looked it up on the Internet and low and behold there were actual order-away-for-your-own (Liquid G) kits," Borden said.

The drug, which was banned in the U.S. in 1990, has been linked to several sexual assaults in the U.S., and observers in Canada warn its abuse may be on the rise.

NUDE SWIM APPROVED

AT U OF T

BY NICOLA LUKSIC

TORONTO (CUP) The University of Toronto has approved a nude-swim at the school's athletic centre, in what is believed to be the first of its kind in Canada.

The initiative was driven by a campus club called the U of T Naturists, who took the first

plunge earlier this month when about 37 members jumped in the pool naked.

They and other club members will be able to swim in the nude periodically throughout the year.

"There's absolutely nothing obscene about being nude," said Thomas Lundy, an organizer with the club. "Nude swimming is definitely not erotic. Sex and eroticism are in the mind, not in the naked body," he said as he floated into the shallow end.

Lundy, who spent most of his life in Europe, was introduced to naturism when he was eight, and says he has difficulty understanding why North America is so behind the times when it comes to basking in the buff.

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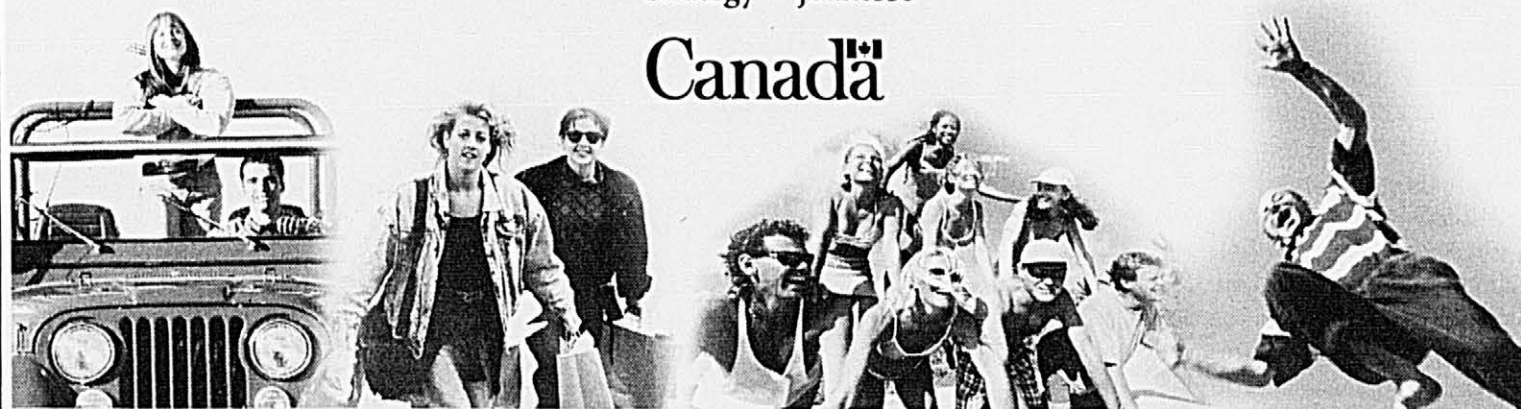
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U.S. Missile Raids Based on Shaky Evidence

COLUMBIA PROF CALLS STRIKE A FAILURE

BY GREG LARKIN

In the wake of the United States unilateral missile raid on the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum, Sudan, evidence continues to surface in the United States and the Middle East suggesting that the United States acted on flawed intelligence work.

The August 28, 1998 raid has spurred debate among political scientists and the media surrounding specific intelligence information coming primarily from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The United States launched an approximate thirty five Tomahawk cruise missiles to the factory believing that the plant was producing the deadly gas VX.

However, one month after the raid the Middle East International reported that "Western technical advisors who helped operate the plant said they had been free to go anywhere in the site and had never seen areas where they suspected dangerous chemicals were being secretly processed."

The New York Times reported that Senior National Security advisers were "not certain whether EMPTA, [one of the chemicals used to produce VX] was made at Al Shifa."

Moreover the soil samples that contained the gas were not collected in an ideal manner. Hank Ellison, an American counter-ter-

rorism expert told the Middle East International, "I imagine this soil sample wasn't taken under the best of circumstances, by somebody placing it in a cooler and immediately sending it to a lab... so that could increase the possibility of seeing similarities in the chemical structure. [EMPTA has a similar chemical structure to FONOFOS, an agricultural

League received with disgust the news of the attack which killed several innocent people and destroyed a plant which provides 50 percent of Sudan's medical needs."

Besides not concretely determining that the soil samples were in fact VX gas, the U.S. intelligence network in Sudan has been damaged and sloppy since 1995.

"It seems that the right questions were not asked to the right analysts," Jervis argued. "The president didn't seem to know how weak their evidence was."

The New York Times reported that in 1995 the CIA realized an agent "who repeatedly warned of startling terrorist threats... was fabricating information." Although the state department withdrew his reports, the U.S. evacuated its embassies and closed its CIA station in Sudan, hindering the collection of accurate and concrete intelligence.

Jervis argued that the U.S. attack was premature and could result in serious repercussions on regional security.

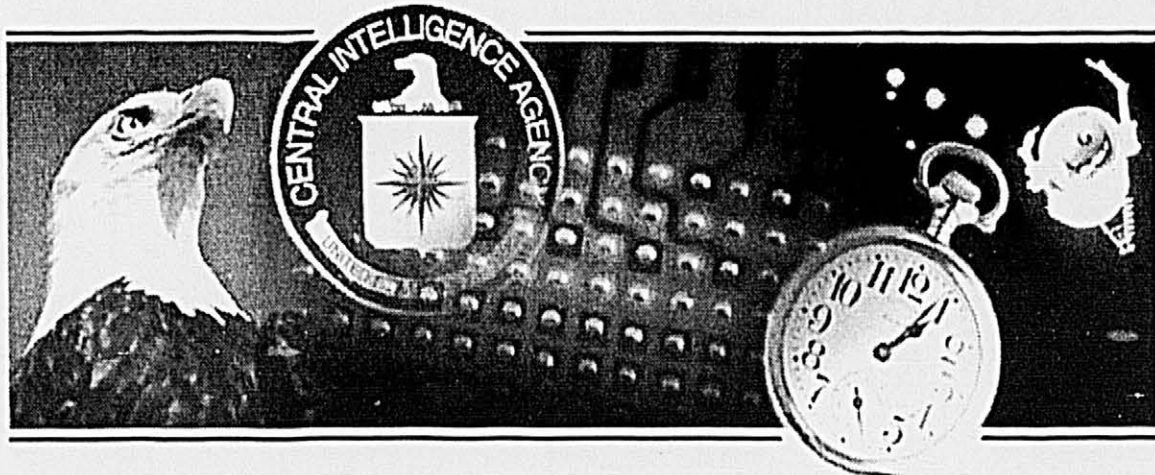
"If a country makes itself predator, judge, jury, and executor all at once, it needs excellent intelligence information, and it seems that this wasn't the case," he said. "Anti-terrorism relies on intelligence and in that sense the raid was a failure in that the U.S. regional intelligence network can only have suffered more damage."

fungicide]."

The consequences of the raid for Sudan are inevitably grave. The country is one of the poorest in the world and is ravaged by political instability.

Doctor Robert Jervis, professor of International Relations at Columbia University states, "It seems that the CIA didn't do a good job. This plant produced huge amounts of medicine."

The Arab League released a statement to the Middle East Reporter that claims, "The Arab



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